



DEFIANT

8

\$2.50

\$3.50 CANADA

# DARK DOMINION™



NEW YORK CITY, MADISON  
AVENUE AND EAST 42nd  
STREET.

4:47 P.M.

THE ROOTS OF THE GROWTH SEEM  
SOMEHOW THICKER TODAY--

-- AS IF THEY WERE BEING WATERED  
BY THE CHILL SPRING RAIN THAT'S  
BEEN FALLING SINCE SUNRISE, RATHER  
THAN BY ALL THIS CITY'S FEAR.

BUT, FOR ONCE, I  
HAVE SOMETHING  
MORE IMPORTANT  
ON MY MIND...

REPENT  
YE  
WICKED!

ONCE A HERO...! PART TWO

WRITTEN BY LEN WEIN  
PENCILLED BY J.G. JONES  
INKED BY MIKE BARREIRO  
PAINTED BY TIM PERKINS  
LETTERED BY AGNES PINAHA  
EDITED BY DEBBIE FIX



MERCY!

SHE WASN'T HERE  
YESTERDAY WHEN I CAME  
CALLING--



-- AND, FRANKLY,  
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT--

SHE'S  
BACK?

THANK  
HEAVEN.



YAY, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE  
ALLEYS AN' THE SHADOWS, I  
AIN'T GONNA FEAR NO EVIL...

GLAD TO HEAR  
THAT, MERCY...



I'VE BEEN WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU.

NO NEED T' BE,  
MICHAEL.



THESE DAYS,  
OL' MERCY GOT  
HER AN ANGEL O'  
THE LORD T'  
PROTECT HER...

...AN ANGEL WITH  
A POWER GREAT AS  
YOURS!



YES, I'M --  
OH -- SURE  
YOU DO.

SO WHAT  
CAN YOU TELL ME  
ABOUT A SUBSTRATUM  
DEMON NAMED  
VEX?

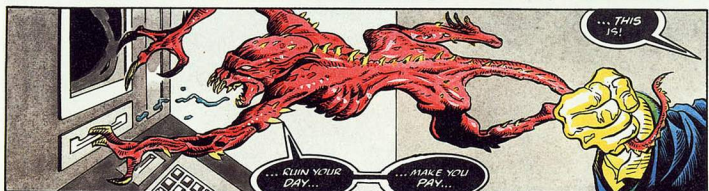


OL' VEX IS A  
NASTY LI'L  
BUGGER,  
MICHAEL. HE...

C'MON, YA LOUSY MACHINE!  
GIMME BACK MY CARD!

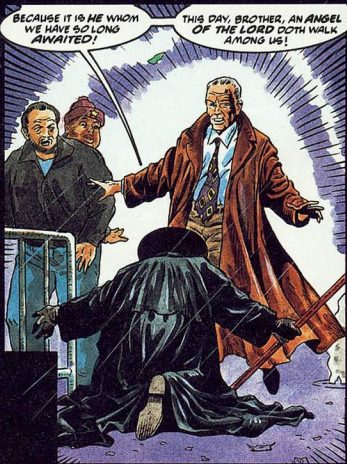
HMM/M.

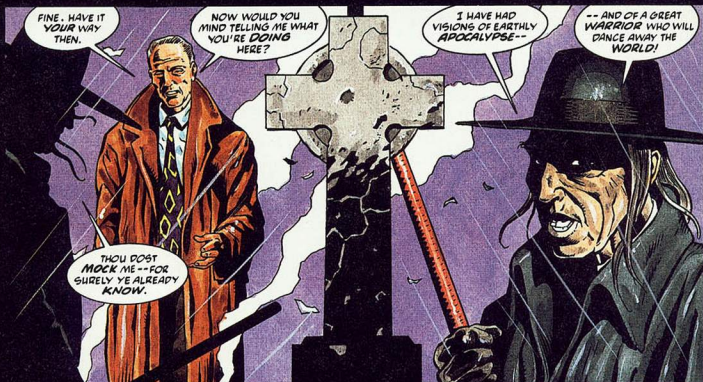
BETTER EXCUSE  
ME A SECOND,  
MERCY...

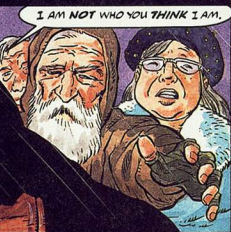


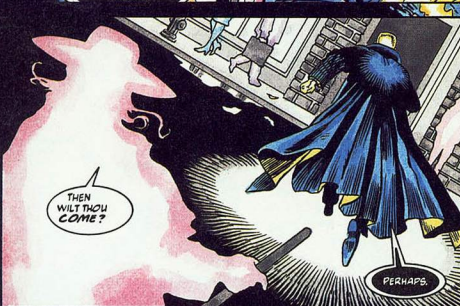
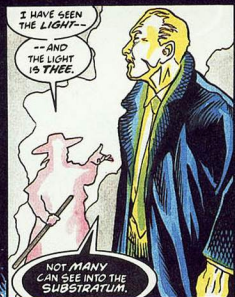
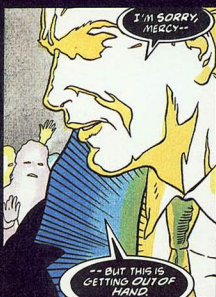




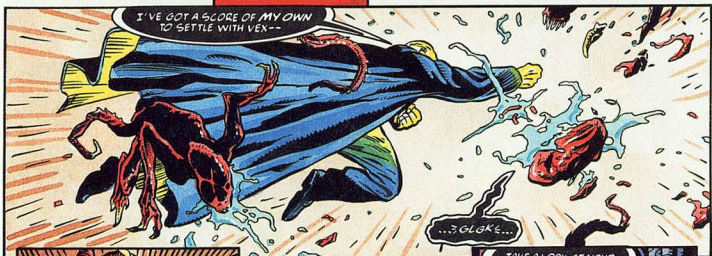
















SO, BROTHER, WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK HERE AT THIS MOST PROFITIOUS MOMENT?

GALAHAD, PLEASE-- YOU'RE TOO WEAK--!



THEN I'LL MAKE THIS BRIEF

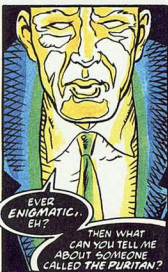
VARIOUS SUBSTRATUM CREATURES HAVE BEGUN TO MANIFEST THEMSELVES ON THE HARD WORLD, WREAKING HAVOC...

I NEED TO KNOW NOW... AND WHY!



WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS, MICHAEL...

YOU WILL LEARN THE REASONS SOON ENOUGH.



EVER ENIGMATIC, EH?

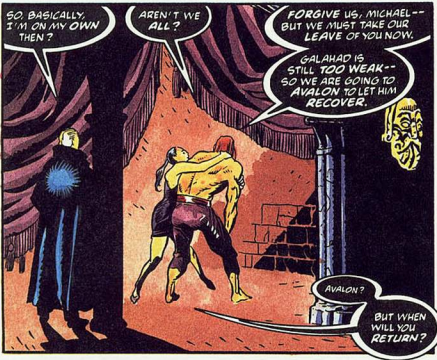
THEN WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT SOMEONE CALLED THE PURITAN?



VERY LITTLE, I FEAR.

HE IS NOT OF THE SUBSTRATUM--

--OR I WOULD KNOW OF HIM.



SO, BASICALLY, I'M ON MY OWN THEN?

AREN'T WE ALL?

FORGIVE US, MICHAEL-- BUT WE MUST TAKE OUR LEAVE OF YOU NOW.

GALAHAD IS STILL TOO WEAK-- SO WE ARE GOING TO AVALON TO LET HIM RECOVER.

AVALON?

BUT WHEN WILL YOU RETURN?



WHEN WE ARE MOST NEEDED, OF COURSE.

UNTIL THEN, MY FRIEND... TAKE CARE.



HELL'S KITCHEN, WEST 41<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
AND 30<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.

9:47 P.M.

SO THIS IS WHERE THE DISCARDED GO WHEN THEY HAVE  
NOWHERE ELSE LEFT TO TURN--

-- THE FINAL REPOSITORY OF  
ALL THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS...



LOOK! IT'S HIM!

GOD'S  
ANGEL IS  
BACK AMONG  
US!

PLEASE--  
DON'T LEAVE US  
AGAIN!

WE  
NEED  
YOU--!

YOU'VE GOT  
TO HELP US!

IN FACT, I'M  
REALLY  
NOBODY  
SPECIAL  
AT ALL.

I HONESTLY  
WISH I  
COULD--

-- BUT I'M  
NOT THE PERSON  
YOU THINK  
I AM.

BUT WE  
NEED YOU--!



PLEASE  
STOP  
PAWING  
ME!

STAND YE ASIDE--  
AND LET HIM PASS!

THOU HAST COME,  
CHOSEN ONE-- AS I DID  
PRAY YE WOULD!

WE HAVE MUCH TO  
DISCUSS, THEE  
AND I.

YES, I  
SUPPOSE WE  
DO.



PRAY ENTER --  
AND MAKE THYSELF  
COMFORTABLE.

WHO'S  
THE BOY?



THIS IS MY SON, JUDAH --  
OF WHOM I AM RIGHTLY  
PROUD.

HELLO.



HELLO, JUDAH.  
IT'S VERY NICE TO  
MEET YOU.

NAY, SIR,  
THE HONOR IS  
MINE.

I'VE NEVER  
MET A REAL  
ANGEL  
BEFORE.



HEH. DESPITE  
WHAT YOUR  
FATHER MAY  
HAVE TOLD  
YOU, SON,  
I'M NO  
ANGEL --

-- THOUGH I DO  
APPRECIATE THE  
COMPLIMENT.



'T WAS  
NOT  
MEANT  
AS SUCH.

DENY IT  
THOUGH YE WILL,  
THOU ART TRULY  
HEAVEN-BLESSED!



I KNOW THOU ART  
NO SERAPH AS  
DESCRIBED IN THE  
SCRIPTURES --

-- BUT STILL  
ART THOU A BEING  
OF EXTRAORDINARY  
POWER!



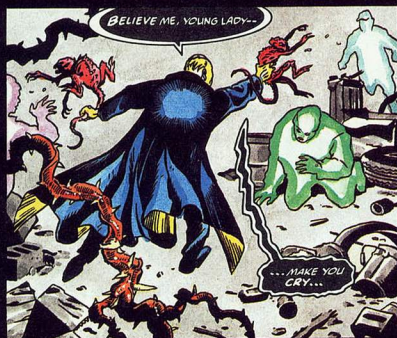
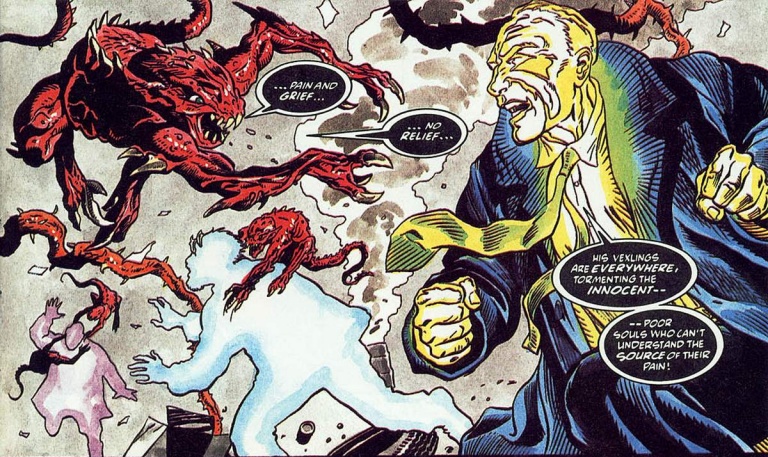
I AM MERELY  
A MAN, MY  
FRIEND --

-- WHILST THOU  
ART SO MUCH  
MORE!



WILT THOU USE THY  
POWER IN THE  
SERVICE OF THE  
LORD?







BE NOT  
AFRAID,  
BROTHER--

--FOR THE DEMONS  
THAT BESIEGE THEE  
THRIVE ON FEAR!



THAT WON'T  
HELP.

HE CAN'T  
SEE WHAT YOU'RE  
TALKING ABOUT.  
REMEMBER?

... WOULDN'T MAKE  
ANY DIFFERENCE  
IF HE COULD!...

... FEAR LIVES  
AT THE VERY  
HEART OF  
THIS CITY!...

... YOU CAN  
NEVER ELIMINATE  
IT ALL!...

MAYHAP NOT,  
FIEND--

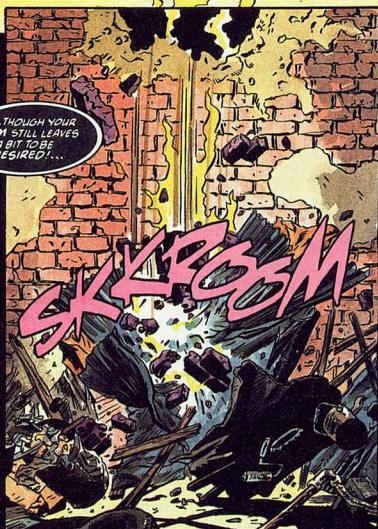
-- BUT WE CAN  
MAKE A START WITH  
THEE!



... YOU ARE  
FAST, OLD  
MAN...

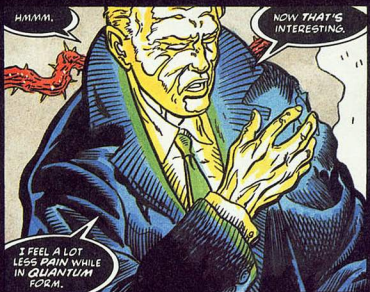
... I WILL  
GIVE YOU THAT  
MUCH...

...THOUGH YOUR  
AIM STILL LEAVES  
A BIT TO BE  
DESIRED!...



SKLASH







...READY TO  
ACCEPT THE  
INEVITABLE  
YET,  
GLINT?...

NOT  
LIKELY,  
SLIME!



WHATEVER COSMIC MISTAKE  
HAS ALLOWED YOU ACCESS TO  
THE HARD WORLD--

-- I INTEND  
TO CORRECT  
IT!

...YOU'RE  
WELCOME TO  
TRY...

...BUT YOU  
HAVEN'T A PRAYER  
OF SUCCESS...

...AARGGHH!!ε...

PERISH,  
HELLSPAWN--

-- THAT OUR WORLD  
MAY LIVE!



WATCH OUT!  
YOU ALMOST  
HIT ME!



...YOU'LL WISH WE  
HAD, GLINT!...

...I'M GOING  
TO...



...AARGGHH!!ε...



GONE! HE'LL NOT BOTHER  
US AGAIN!

BROTHER, COME  
QUICKLY!

NOW  
WHAT?



SOMEONE INJURED?



HE WAS HIDIN' INSIDE THE SHELTER WHEN THAT WALL FELL ON IT!

WE'RE DOIN' WHAT WE CAN FOR HIM BUT--

WHO IS IT?

LET ME SEE!



JUDAH?

BY THE ALL-MERCIFUL-- NO!



WHAT HAVE I DONE TO THEE?

PLEASE, MICHAEL ALEXANDER-- THOU MUST HELP ME SAVE MY SON!

I'LL CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE RIGHT AWAY!

NAY, THERE IS NO TIME.



THOU MUST HEAL HIM THYSELF.



ME? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.



THOU HAST THE POWER!

I PRAY THEE-- USE IT!

I'M TRULY SORRY...

...BUT I CAN'T.



THEN THOU HAST MADE THY CHOICE--

-- AND MAY THE LORD HELP THEE--

-- FOR I MOST SURELY WON'T!

NEXT: CONFRONTATION!

# DETAILS of the DOMINION

Reminder:  
To better understand  
the Quantum Substratum—  
Keep a journal about the things  
I've encountered there.

## PEACHES

I'll admit that my first encounter with Peaches didn't exactly set us off on the right foot--but that's because it wasn't really Peaches herself, but rather Chasm's shape-shifting she-demon SHEBA in disguise. Since then, though, I haven't had to accept any substitutes. The real Peaches is not only a beautiful and worthy partner for Galahad, but a more-than-worthy adversary for Chasm and his minions.

Though I still don't know where she originally came from, Peaches is a woman who could easily fit into any era. She has the attitude and the physical and emotional strength of a modern woman, but with the kind of classic beauty that has inspired artists throughout the ages. Those on the Substratum who have mistaken her for simply another poor damsel in distress never make that mistake twice.

It's a real pity that she, like Galahad, seem permanently stranded on the quantum plane--but, then, without the likes of Peaches and Galahad, there would probably be little hope for the Substratum at all.



# letters

## TO THE EDITOR

DEFIANT welcomes your comments.

Please address all mail to:  
Letters to the Editor  
DEFIANT  
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New York, NY 10016

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Dear DEFIANT:  
You know, a *DARK DOMINION* animated series would be interesting...

Sincerely,  
Randall Kirby

DEFIANT;  
I did not wish to write a letter that blows kisses. I never liked Marvel, I laughed at most of Image, and was generally a DC/First/Eclipse reader. I assumed that regardless of how nice *DARK DOMINION* looked, it would read like Image or Marvel. I like Todd McFarlane's art and all, but that said, Image and Marvel are aimed at children or immature adults.

*DARK DOMINION*, on the other hand, is well-written. I do not have to age-regress to appreciate it. I do not have to admire violence to understand it. Just as Barney bores people above the age of five with its simplicity, so does a standard comic bore people with the banality of its violence. *DARK DOMINION* is elegant and does not rely upon those conventions which diminish the art form. The concept is both new and suggestive of concepts never fully realized. Co-developer Steve Ditko has never received the credit he was due, and *DARK DOMINION* reminds one of quality still to be utilized, as well as concepts to explore.

Well-done so far,  
Alex Ness  
Fargo, ND

Dear DEFIANT Ones,  
At the age of 15, I had a small comic collection of sixty comics with mostly

*G.I. JOE* and *THE INCREDIBLE HULK*. Those were the last comics I had until recently. I'm now 24 and my interest in comics has been rekindled. DEFIANT's *DARK DOMINION* was the third title I decided to start reading. Nonetheless, after reading the first four issues, I knew that DEFIANT and I would have a long-lasting friendship. Within the next two weeks, I had everything else that DEFIANT has published to date. Since then, I've kept current with all the DEFIANT releases and I plan on reading whatever you continue to publish.

The concept behind *DARK DOMINION* is very intriguing. A lot of philosophical questions and dilemmas are raised. I really liked the storyline in issues #5 and #6. *Lurk* is an intensely realistic villain. The most important battles that each of us fight will be those in our own minds. They are the most ferocious battles and the ones that are the most devastating. Hardly anyone discusses demons like *Lurk* which haunt us in the night and rage on in the daylight. Maybe we feel silly talking about these things which we can't prove empirically. We all suffer in silence, battling unempirical realities, thinking we are alone and that all of this is "in our heads." In *DARK DOMINION*, you give these Hollow Men, our personal nightmares, form and substance, which I'm sure can lead to better understanding. With knowledge, we can con-

quer our fears—our demons—and be a “Glimmer,” helping ourselves and others to gain fearless peace of mind.

Your book delves into fear, negative thinking, and the liberation of choosing positively. It also hints at freedom—what it is, and how we can exercise it. The only freedom we have is at the moment of consciousness, to continue being bound by our old oppressor or to choose a new one. When Sarah realized she was giving her power and freedom to Lurk, she had to make a decision: To continue to give Lurk her freedom, or to step forward into a less burdensome “oppressor,” consisting of responsibility and standing up to her fears. I assume Sarah will grow to find happiness and Mr. Cooper will face his own fears and eventually find liberation.

DEFIANT, thanks for an incredible story. All of your stories are wonderful. All of them are thought-provoking. Keep up the great work.

Until Elvis shaves  
his sideburns,  
Defiantly,  
Rockabilly Dan  
Provo, UT

Shooter,  
Greetings! I can't remember the last time I have waited as impatiently for a line of comics to read as much as I have with DEFIANT's titles. I would like you to know it is deeply appreciated—thank you! I am departing within the week for Bristol Bay, Alaska, for the summer

months, and therefore will miss *SCHISM*, *PRUDENCE & CAUTION*, etc., etc.—sometimes it doesn't pay to be in the fishing industry! I am currently working out a solution to my dilemma and hope to read your comics throughout the summer no matter how late I may get them; better late than never!

I also want to thank you for the seminar at the Pike Place Market in Seattle. I wanted to say so much that I ended up saying a lot of not-much-of anything. Oh, well, the excitement I felt that day is irreplaceable. Just for the sake of not having to say *thank you* repetitively, I wish to make a list:

- Tim Perkins: After at least three pencillers, *DARK DOMINION* retains the same excellent “look” due to Tim's talents.
- Oclair: The other half of the best painter duo in comics as he proved in *WARRIORS OF PLASM* #9. *WoP* has not looked this good since #4.
- Thanks for the promo cards (*Skipper*, *Nguyen*, *Billy Ballistic*).
- Letters Pages: Don't ever stop! They are essential.
- *THE ORIGIN OF THE DEFIANT UNIVERSE*: Gets me excited every time I read it.
- Steve Ditko: *DD* #0 was a joy. I'm kinda puzzled by the redo by Joe James, but at the same time I'm very intrigued, 'cause Joe has really given *DD* his own flair that is neither better nor worse, but simply his own. The best aspect of Joe's work is his layouts;

that is the biggest compliment I can give to any comic artist. Layouts are really the key to an artist's expressing his or her imagination.

• DEFIANT has the best monsters!! I just know Lorca engineered another prototype. If David Lapham was on *PLASM*, he would be a DNabler on a *Splatterball* team. Add to it that *DD* has better monsters, and you can see why I don't hesitate to make the bold claim about your monsters.

• After all the trials and tribulations you've been through, I know you will stick with it, “it” being the lost art of storytelling. As long as you keep publishing comics, I will keep reading them. If somehow, some way, you were forced to write *RICHIE RICH* comics, I would read them.

• *CHARLEMAGNE* is one of the best comics I've ever read. If #2 is like #0 and #1, and your already neat comics keep getting better and better, I'm in for the best time in comics for a long time to come!

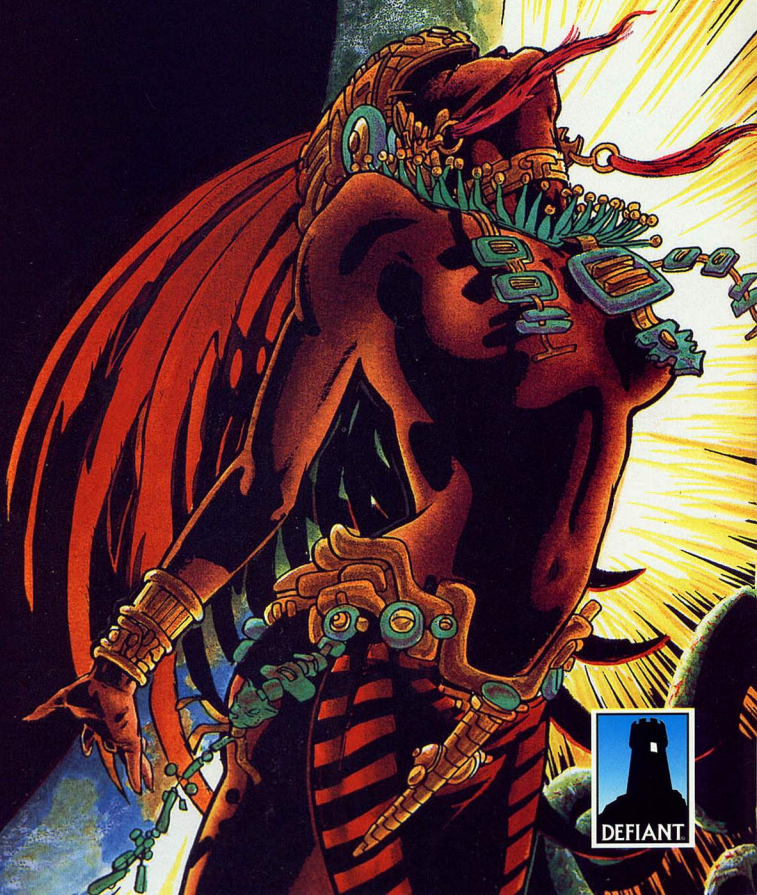
Thank you and the entire DEFIANT staff for taking me beyond the limits of my imagination every time I read a DEFIANT comic!

Jerrold M. Kloetzer  
Aberdeen, WA

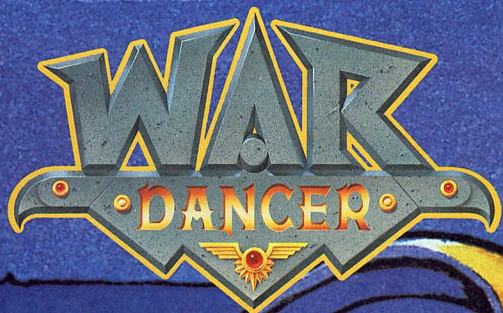


# SCHISM

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DREAM



# WAR DANCER





# Jim Shooter

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Contrary to many rumors, I am not leaving DEFIANT.

The other day we received a series of calls from readers and retailers who'd heard that I'd gone to work for *Continuity Comics*. Their evidence: Continuity has apparently just announced that they're publishing some stories written by me.

Maybe they are...but I wrote those stories in 1987!

We continue to hear from callers and correspondents that I'm going, or have gone to *Image*.

No. Rob Liefeld and I are doing a "crossover of creators," in which I'll write a *YOUNGBLOOD* storyline and he'll do some artwork for us...but I remain DEFIANT.

And DEFIANT remains DEFIANT. Some people heard that the company that licensed the rights to make DEFIANT trading cards had postponed publication, and inferred that we were out of business. We even got a call from *WIZARD*, no less.

Nope. We're doing fine. In fact, we're beginning a make-good program to help take care of some outstanding obligations to do with the trading cards that bore our name. Retailers, contact our sales troops if you haven't heard about this.

Also, watch for what we think will be a pretty exciting announcement regarding trading cards.

Our other licensees, by the



way, are doing fine. We're especially excited about the CD ROM SPLATTERBALL VIDEO GAME and we'll be making an official announcement soon about the first DEFIANT movie! More on those later.

At the risk of sounding like I'm lecturing, be aware, friends, that scoundrels use rumors as weapons to damage competitors. They exploit people's natural tendency to believe bad news. Question rumors. Be suspicious of "authorities." Look for conflicts of interest and ulterior motives. Defy the self-appointed arbiters of taste.

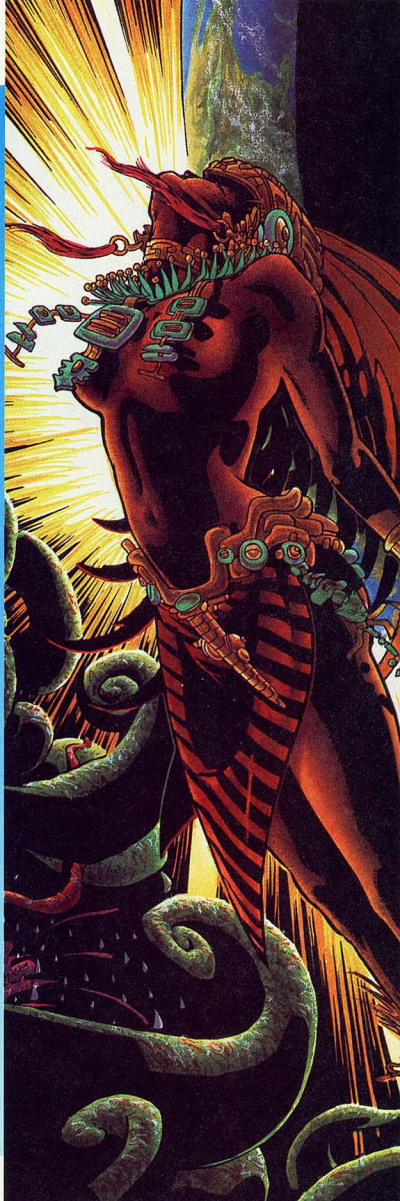
The world is full of liars, lawyers and vicious curs. Be careful out there.

Defiantly,



Jim Shooter  
FYM

P. S. The summer of DEFIANT is nigh upon us. *SCHISM*, our first super-saga crossover, is coming during July and August. Please order it *now* from your retailer. You'll be very glad you did, I promise you.



# CHARLEMAGNE™



# THE GOOD GUYS™





# Ed Polgardy

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If someone had told me eight months ago I'd be giving up my job as Senior Editor at DEFIANT, giving up the chance to work with creative dynamo Jim Shooter, I'd have said they were crazy. But the daily grind of a 4 hour commute (from my home in Pennsylvania to New York, then back to Pennsylvania) has really taken its toll.

So after weeks of weighing the pros and cons of working in the Big Apple, I've decided to give up my editorial position at DEFIANT and head South to Boca Raton, Florida, where I'll continue to ply my trade as Executive Editor at Big Entertainment.

I'm very excited about my new job, but it was a tough decision—walking away from the characters and stories that I helped shape, and saying good-bye to Jim.

I've learned a great deal from Jim Shooter in the short time I've had the pleasure of working with him, a lot about the craft of creating good comics and, more importantly, a lot about honor. Jim is an extremely honorable person. I've seen him reward loyalty, time after time, and spend hours with rookie artists and

writers, giving them advice on how to improve their work and break into the business. And you can bet your bottom dollar, whenever he promises a rookie a shot at the big time, they get that shot.

Jim also works overtime making sure people get paid what they deserve. In editorial meetings, when the subject of payment would come up—even for a script or artwork that we knew we weren't going to use—Jim was very generous. He believes that a creator should be fairly compensated for their time, even if the finished product is unacceptable.

I'm going to miss working with Jim Shooter and all of my other friends at DEFIANT. To all of them, I'd just like to say: Thanks for the wonderfully creative times we've shared. I promise, I'll never forget them.

*Ed Polgardy*





*Prudence &*  
**CAUTION**



# WARRIORS OF PLASM



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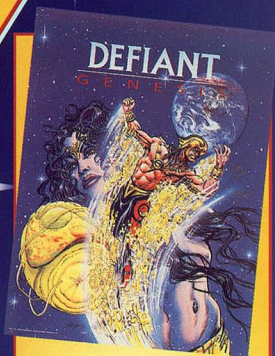
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